

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A flow directing device for use in a gas turbine engine, comprising:
an airfoil having a leading edge, a trailing edge, a suction side and
a pressure side;
a wall abutting said airfoil; and
a fillet between said airfoil and wall;
wherein said fillet has an enlarged section at said leading edge,
along said suction and pressure sides, and towards said trailing
edge.
2. (original) The flow directing device of claim 1, wherein said suction side and
said pressure side of said airfoil each have a gage point, said enlarged section
ending adjacent said gage points.
3. (original) The flow directing device of claim 1, wherein said fillet extends a
distance from said airfoil, a maximum distance located in said enlarged section
on said suction side of said airfoil.
4. (original) The flow directing device of claim 3, wherein said airfoil has a
stagnation line and said maximum distance is adjacent said stagnation line.
5. (original) The flow directing device of claim 3, wherein a minimum of said
distance located on a normal section of said fillet, said maximum distance
approximately 8 times greater than said minimum distance.
6. (original) The flow directing device of claim 1, wherein said fillet extends a
height from said wall, a maximum of height located in said enlarged section on
said suction side of said airfoil.

7. (original) The flow directing device of claim 6, wherein said airfoil has a stagnation line and said maximum height is adjacent said stagnation line.
8. (original) The flow directing device of claim 6, wherein a minimum of said height is located in a normal section of said fillet, said maximum distance approximately 10 times greater than said minimum height.
9. (original) The flow direction device of claim 6, wherein said airfoil has a span and said maximum distance is approximately 30 percent of said span.
10. (original) The flow directing device of claim 1, wherein said enlarged section has a linear height profile.
11. (original) The flow directing device of claim 1, wherein said enlarged section has an arcuate height profile.
12. (original) The flow directing device of claim 1, wherein said enlarged section has a variable curvature.
13. (original) The flow directing device of claim 12, wherein said enlarged section does not have any slope discontinuities.
14. (original) A vane segment, comprising:
 at least one platform;
 a plurality of airfoils extending from said at least one platform, each of said airfoils having a leading edge, a trailing edge, a suction side and a pressure side; and
 a fillet between each of said airfoils and said platform;
 wherein each of said fillets have an enlarged section at said

leading edge, along said suction and pressure sides, and
towards said trailing edge.

15. (original) The vane segment of claim 14, wherein said suction side and said pressure side of said airfoil each have a gage point, said enlarged section ending adjacent said gage points.

16. (original) The vane segment of claim 14, wherein said fillet extends a distance from said airfoil, a maximum of said distance located in said enlarged section on said suction side of said airfoil.

17. (original) The vane segment of claim 16, wherein said airfoil has a stagnation line and said maximum distance is adjacent said stagnation line.

18. (original) The vane segment of claim 16, wherein a minimum of said distance is located in a normal section of said fillet, said maximum distance approximately 8 times greater than said minimum distance.

19. (original) The vane segment of claim 14, wherein said fillet extends a height from said wall, a maximum of said height located in said enlarged section on said suction side of said airfoil.

20. (original) The vane segment of claim 19, wherein said airfoil has a stagnation line and said maximum height is adjacent said stagnation line.

21. (original) The vane segment of claim 19, wherein a minimum of said height is located in a normal section of said fillet, said maximum distance approximately 10 times greater than said minimum height.

22. (original) The flow direction device of claim 19, wherein said airfoil has a span and said maximum distance is approximately 30 percent of said span.

23. (original) The vane segment of claim 14, wherein said enlarged section has a linear height profile.

24. (original) The vane segment of claim 14, wherein said enlarged section has an arcuate height profile.

25. (original) The vane segment of claim 14, wherein said enlarged section has a variable curvature.

26. (currently amended) The vane segment of claim ~~23~~ 25, wherein said enlarged section does not have any slope discontinuities.

27. (original) A method of reducing heat load on an airfoil, comprising the steps of:

providing an airfoil with a proximal end that abuts a wall, a distal end and a medial section between said ends;
flowing a gas over said airfoil, said gas adjacent said medial section of said airfoil having a higher temperature than said gas flowing over said proximal end of said airfoil; and
directing said gas from said proximal end of said airfoil to said medial section of said airfoil.

28. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein said directing step includes providing a fillet between said airfoil and said wall, said fillet having an enlarged section .
